



June 13, 2012

Dr. Peter Goodwin, Ph.D.
Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth St, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Subject: State and Federal Agencies Appreciation to Independent Science Panel for their Review of Bay Delta Plan Documents

Dear Dr. Goodwin,

State and Federal agencies participating in Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) extend their appreciation to the seven-member Independent Science Panel (Panel) for reviewing and issuing their report on the draft Effects Analysis component of the BDCP.

We want to thank the Panel members for their thorough assessment of this effort. An independent peer review and assessment of the adequacy of vital science components of the current plan and a clear report presenting those findings are of great value. The Panel's recommendations will help further development of key elements of a proposed plan and will help guide the analyses as the State moves forward with a proposed project.

We are beginning our review of the Panel report and agree with many of the Panel's comments. The Panel was asked to review the administrative draft that, in keeping with the BDCP open and transparent process, was posted on the BDCP website in late February. That draft was incomplete in some respects, and lacking certain elements. We plan to ask the Panel to review a complete, revised draft document that will contain the portions of the document that were not available to the Panel in the earlier administrative draft. We would expect the panel to let us know in a subsequent report if we responded to the recommendations and concerns raised in the present report.

The State and Federal agencies, working with stakeholders, are committed to successfully completing the BDCP process and will continue to devote resources to developing a scientifically sound and broadly supported BDCP that will help advance the co-equal goals of a healthy San Francisco Bay Delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply for California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gerald Meral'.

Dr. Gerald Meral, PhD
Deputy Secretary, BDCP
California Natural Resources Agency

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David Nawi'.

David Nawi
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior